



city of
greenville

News Release

KIKO CELEBRATES FIRST BIRTHDAY AT GREENVILLE ZOO

Greenville, S.C. –The Greenville Zoo will celebrate the first birthday of Kiko, a male Masai giraffe, with a party on Tuesday, October 22 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Birthday festivities will include free cake and Pepsi products for the first 300 guests and a special birthday treat for Kiko made of Ry-Krisp crackers, banana paste and hay.

Over 1.5 million viewers worldwide followed Autumn, a 7-year-old female, during her pregnancy and watched the live birth of Kiko on the zoo's GiraffeCam. Kiko is the first born for Autumn and Walter, an 8-year-old male, and the first giraffe birth at the Greenville Zoo.

“Kiko’s birth introduced a whole new audience for the zoo and has really had an effect on the way that we communicate and engage all of our guests,” said Greenville Zoo Director Jeff Bullock. “It has been a tremendous year watching him grow and has only excited the staff as to the potential impact of the several other cooperative breeding programs we are now cultivating.”

Both Walter and Autumn are on loan to the Greenville Zoo as part of a breeding loan. Autumn came from the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston, where she was born on January 7, 2006. Walter was born on November 9, 2005 and came from the San Diego Zoo. Both animals arrived in Greenville in July 2007 as part of a three-way loan agreement. According to the agreement, the first calf belongs to the owner of the dam, which is the Franklin Park Zoo. The second calf will belong to the owner of the sire (the San Diego Zoo) and the third calf will belong to the Greenville Zoo.

The birthday party will feature special zookeeper talks at the Giraffe Exhibit. Children dressed in giraffe costumes will receive free admission when accompanied by an adult paying full-price admission. Event sponsors include Couture Cakes and Pepsi of Greenville.

About the Greenville Zoo

Accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), Greenville Zoo is rated one of the best tourist attractions in South Carolina, attracting over 270,000 people annually. Operated by the City of Greenville, the 14-acre facility features wildlife from around the world including giraffes, monkeys, giant tortoises and elephants. Visitors can also enjoy one of the zoo's most popular exhibits, the Reptile Building, which is home to a variety of lizards, frogs, turtles and snakes.

The Greenville Zoo is open seven days a week, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Zoo entry ticket sales will close at 4:15 p.m. Admission to the Greenville Zoo is \$8.75 for adults and \$5.50 for children (ages 3 to 15). For more information about the Greenville Zoo, visit www.greenvillezoo.com or follow the zoo on Facebook at facebook.com/greenvillezoo.